Remarks

Applicants respectfully request that claim 1 be amended and claims 3-9, 11 and 17-20 be canceled. No new matter has been added to the application by virtue of the present amendments. Applicants respectfully submit that the present response places the present application in condition for allowance or in better condition for purposes of appeal. Applicants believe that the present response does **not** raise new issues requiring further search by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 10, 12-16 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Morris, U.S. Patent No. 5,708,400, hereinafter Morris.

Applicants respectfully submit that Morris does not anticipate Applicants' independent claim 1, as amended, or claims dependent thereupon. Applicants respectfully request that claim 1 be amended to recite the limitations of "…wherein a first electronic component is physically coupled to said first segment, a second electronic component is physically coupled to said second segment and **said third segment is not coupled to an electronic component …**" and "… a first pair of conductive vias **each** coupled to different points on **said third segment of said first power plane layer** …" (emphasis added). It is noted that the added limitation of " … said third segment of said first power plane layer …" merely reinforces what was already recited in claim 1, that is, " … **a first power plane layer including** … **a third segment** for connecting said first and second segments …". Support for Applicants' amendment to claim 1 can be found, for example, in paragraphs [0022-0024] and with reference to FIGS. 2A, 2B of the present application.

Applicants' claimed invention is related to having a third segment which is not coupled to an electronic component (e.g. electronic device or current load), whereas only the first and second segments are physically coupled to electronic components. Referring to FIG. 2A of the present application, for example, DC to DC converter 130 is physically coupled only to the first segment

205-1 by pin 135, electronic component 145 is physically coupled only to the second segment 205-2 by pin 150 and there is no electronic component coupled to the third segment 205-3. Since the pair of conductive vias 230-1, 230-2 are coupled to the third segment, the vias 230-1, 230-2 are also not coupled to an electronic component.

Morris discloses that each segment of power supply plane 3 is coupled to an electronic component respectively. Referring to FIG. 1 of Morris, all vias in all segments are each coupled at one end to a power supply plane 3 or a ground plane 4, and at another end to an electronic component (e.g. resistor 11/capacitor 12 in a first segment; culprit circuit 5 in a third segment; or, resistor 13/capacitor 14 in a second segment). Morris is silent on **the third segment of power supply plane 3** not being coupled to an electronic component, and only first and second segments of the power supply plane 3 being physically coupled to an electronic component. Rather, all segments of the power supply plane 3 of Morris are each coupled to an electronic component, respectively, and vias are used to make the physical (and electrical) connection from the power supply plane 3 or ground plane 4 to the electronic components. Morris provides no disclosure, teaching or suggestion of any segment of the power supply plane 3 which is not coupled to an electronic component.

Regarding Applicants' claim limitation related to "... a first pair of conductive vias ...", Applicants respectfully submit that the "first power plane layer" includes first, second and third segments, and it is noted that **the third segment is an integral part of the "first power plane layer"**. As such, the "first pair of conductive vias" 230-1 and 230-2 are **each** coupled to different points **on** the third segment 205-3 of the first power plane layer 205, that is, **each of the "first pair of conductive vias" 230-1 and 203-2 are coupled to the first power plane layer 205**. Morris fails to disclose this claim limitation. Rather, Morris discloses in FIG. 1 and column 4, lines 7-10, a culprit circuit 5 coupled to a power supply plane 3 by a via 6 and to a ground plane 4 by another via 7, where **only one** of the pair of conductive vias (i.e. via 6) is coupled to power supply plane 3 as indicated by the blackened oval where via 6 meets power supply plane 3. The **other one** of the pair of conductive vias (i.e. via 7) is **coupled to ground plane 4, not power supply plane 3**, as indicated by the blackened oval where the other via 7 meets ground plane 4, and further indicated

by the transparent oval where the other via 7 passes by power supply plane 3 which shows that the other via 7 is **not** coupled to power supply plane 3.

Claims 2, 10, 12-16 and 21 are dependent upon Claim 1, and, as discussed above, Claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Morris. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) in view of Morris has been overcome and it is respectfully requested that the pending claims be passed to issuance in view of the amendment and remarks.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing remarks, all of the claims now presented are believed to be in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn and this application be passed to issue at an early date.

The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the number listed below if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a phone conference would aid in furthering the prosecution of this application. No fee is due by virtue of this response. However, if the PTO determines that a fee is required, please charge Applicants' Deposit Account, 09-0456.

Respectfully submitted,

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